

on the motion of Mr. Lee to strike out the entire section, the motion was advocated by Messrs. Kilbourn and Barry.

Mr. Bateman proposed, as a substitute for the section, that the office of commissioner of the land office and keeper of the chancery records shall be abolished, and the clerk of the Court of Appeals shall perform the duties of those officers, except to sit as judge of the land office, which duty shall be performed by the judge of the Court of Appeals elected from the city of Baltimore.

Mr. Roman advocated the report of the committee.

The debate was further continued by Messrs. Stoddert, McKaig, Mitchell, and Kilbourn, when

Mr. Page said this question of a historiographer had occupied the Convention for two days, and he felt it to be his duty to call the previous question.

The call being sustained, the question was taken on the substitute for the fourth and fifth sections, offered by Mr. Bateman, which was adopted by a vote of 56 to 35.

Section six, now section five, was read and passed over.

Section seven, now section six, in relation to the creation of new offices, was read.

Mr. Merrick moved to strike out the section. He said the Legislature already possessed the power to create new offices, and it was useless to encumber the constitution with this provision.

Mr. Roman said the matter was in doubt, and it would be better to let the section remain. It was absolutely necessary at times to create new offices. Where would the city of Baltimore have been had not it been for the creation of police commissioners, who were State officers.

Mr. Stoddert said all powers not denied to the Legislature could be exercised, and there was no denial of this power.

The motion to strike out then prevailed.

Mr. Walsh had voted with the majority on the substitute of Mr. Bateman, for the purpose of moving a reconsideration. This office of land commissioner, which had thus been swept away, was one of great importance to the